

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02383 010246Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 VO-05 INSE-00 SSO-00
/034 W

-----071371 010256Z /62

O R 310235Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2839
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 2383

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, VN, AS
SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA

REF: (A) STATE 081505; (B) CANBERRA 2272;
(C) KUALA LUMPUR 2167

1. EMBASSY BEING PRESSED FOR DEFINITIVE STATEMENT
REGARDING STATUS OF REFUGEES ACCEPTED UNDER US PROGRAM
BUT WHO LEFT CAMPS TO TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA BY BOAT (SEE
PARA. 5 REFTEL B).

2. GOA PASSED TELEGRAM TO EMBASSY CANBERRA STATING
THAT AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR HAD PROVIDED THE NAMES OF
12 PERSONS ON BOARD VNSG 1028 WHO HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY
US. THE NAMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NANGO VAN SEN (SIC)
NGO TAN DUC
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LAM NGHE
TANG THUY CHINH
TANG ANH CHIEU
HUYNH HUU PHUC
LE HUU DUC
HUYNH PHUOC THAO
VONG LAN DAT

NGUYEN VIET HOAN
LE THI MY SUONG
LE BAO HIEN

3. TELEGRAM STATES " ALL KNEW THEY HAD BEEN ACCEPTED
BY THE US. THERE WERE NO CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCES".

4. ON MARCH 29, BOAT NUMBER VNKG 0042 WITH 34 PERSONS
ABOARD ARRIVED IN DARWIN. FIVE REFUGEES BOARDED BOAT
AT JAKARTA. GOA OFFICIALS IN JAKARTA HAVE ADVISED
CANBERRA THAT AT LEAST TWO (POSSIBLY THREE) OF THE
FIVE HAD BEEN CONSIDERED FOR US RESETTLEMENT. TWO
IDENTIFIED AS LE VAN DONG AND LE XUAN SANG.

5. REASONS FOR REFUGEES JOINING BOATS TO TRAVEL TO
AUSTRALIA WHEN THEY HAD BEEN ACCEPTED (OR REPORTEDLY
ACCEPTED) FOR US PROGRAM IS NOT CLEAR. INTERVIEWS
NOW BEING CONDUCTED BY GOA AUTHORITIES MAY SHED LIGHT
ON SUBJECT.

6. AUSTRALIANS ARE CONCERNED THAT NEW WAVE OF
REFUGEE BOATS WILL DESCEND ON NORTHERN COAST. SHOULD
THIS SITUATION OCCUR IT COULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS
FOR AUSTRALIAN REFUGEE PROGRAM. FOR THIS REASON THEY
HAVE TAKEN POSITION THAT REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN
ACCEPTED FOR RESETTLEMENT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY SHOULD
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STILL BE PROCESSED FOR SUCH SETTLEMENT. ELIMINATION
OF EVEN A FEW CASES BY THIS METHOD WOULD HELP STEM
ADVERSE PUBLICITY.

7. IN RECENT MONTHS AUSTRALIANS HAVE MADE COMMEND-
ABLE EFFORT TO ACCEPT REFUGEES AND TO MOVE THEM
RAPIDLY OUT OF CAMPS. RIGID REFUSAL TO ACCORD
FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO REFUGEES WHO HAD BEEN
ACCEPTED FOR US(OR OTHER COUNTRY) RESETTLEMENT
BECAUSE THEY HAVE LEFT CAMPS PRIOR TO FINAL MOVEMENT
COULD HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON AUSTRALIAN WILLINGNESS TO
CONTINUE CURRENT PROGRAMS.

8. A FURTHER FACTOR WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN
DECISION PROCESS IS FACT THAT AUSTRALIA HAS NOT
DEDUCTED "ILLEGAL ENTRIES" FROM THEIR ANNOUNCED QUOTAS
FOR ACCEPTANCE OF REFUGEES FROM CAMPS IN SOUTHEAST
ASIA. THIS MEANS THAT AUSTRALIA HAS IN FACT ACCEPTED
SEVERAL HUNDRED REFUGEES IN EXCESS OF ANNOUNCED GOALS.
FACED WITH A NEW INFLUX OF "ILLEGAL ENTRANTS" GOA NOW
DISCUSSING WHETHER THIS LIBERAL ATTITUDE CAN OR SHOULD
BE CONTINUED. FAVORABLE INTERPRETATION RE STATUS OF

"ACCEPTED OR CONSIDERED" REFUGEES CASES WOULD HELP TO
DETER CHANGE IN CURRENT ADMISSION POLICY.
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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